That changed the whole concept of the project and that was why the revised cost estimate was prepared in 1983 which is to the tune of Rs. 483 crores.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: What about the delay of five years?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: After all, Sir, discussions were being held. We were first considering whether we would get the resources or not. It is really a matter of pride, Sir, that though in India, lignite mining is not a success, lignite mining and also production of power from lignite have now proved to be a success and the progress of Neyveli Lignite Corporation is really success story and we should be proud of that. But we learn from our mistakes; after all, we are not infallible. So, on this ground I cannot say that has been really a delay. But where the delay has been mentioned is in the question that has been asked and the question is from the 16th December, 1985, what has been the escalation. This was the question and, Sir, if the honourable Member refers to the question, he will know it. That is why I have said that the delay from that point to today is hardly costing us Rs. 10 crores which is only natural escalation and we cannot say that this is a substantial escalation of cost and, Sir, we will keep to this cost now and also the time-frame.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Earlier I wrote two letters to the honourable Minister. At the first stage he will remember, it was the bucket escalators amounting to Rs. 21 crores, causing accidents twice, killing people and the families affected not being paid compensation. At the second stage I wrote to him about the present project amounting to Rs. 100 crores. I brought the whole question to his notice in order to investigate the reasons for their earlier defective machines, payment in excess of their cost escalation and to realise the compensation dues for those who died in the accidents, because the job was given to a company which had no expertise in doing it. That is the first part of my question. Part (b) of my question is: What action is being taken to recall the letter of intent issued to NLC which is going to put the public exchequer to a loss of Rs. 100 crores? Then (c): What investigation has been made about the hospitality received by various NLC officers from the company concerned which has no experts in the job and is incurring loss to the public exchequer?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have already had a dialogue and exchange of letters on this matter with the honourable Member. I have already said if he has something more to find out about it and discuss, I will be happy to do it. But for this question today I would need notice from him. If he wants to ask a specific question, I will give it.

*183. [*The questioner (Shri Sukomal Sen) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 41 infra]

*184. [*The questioner (Shri Chaturanan Mishra) was absent. For answer* vide *col.*..41 infra]

*185. (The questioner (Dr. Bapu Kaldate) was absent. For answer, vide *cols* 42-43 infra.)

*185. [*The questioner (Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury) was absent. For answer* vide *cols.*..42-43 infra]

Anti-cancer, drugs

*187. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:†
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drugs companies which are licensed to produce anti-cancer drugs in the country;

(b) what is the licenced and installed capacity of each drug company and what was the production of these

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu.

drugs by each of these companies during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that indigenous production of such drugs is more than the country's demand;

(d) whether it is also a fact that these drugs are allowed to be imported freely under OGL; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken by Government to save valuable foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No company holds industrial licence for the manufacture of anti-cancer drugs. However, some companies have been granted DGID registrations. Details of their capacities and production, to the extent available, are given in the Annexure. (*See* below).

(c) The Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for Seventh Five Year Plan has estimated the demand for only two anti-cancer drugs viz. 5-Fluororacil and Cyclophosphamide for which no production has been reported so far. However, the Government have recently commissioned a study to assess the requirements of all important drugs by 2000 A.D.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The import policy for a drug is determined in consideration of several factors, including its domestic demand vis-a-vis indigenous production. To encourage production in the country all anti-cancer drugs have been delicensed.

Annexure

	Capacity Kgs.	Production		
		1983	1984	1985
1. *Cyclophosphamide*				
(a) Cadila . .	600	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
2. *Vinblastine Sulphate*				
(a) Cipla . . .	4	N.R.	Not available	4378 gms
(b) H.A.L. . .	4	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
(c) Amrutanjan .	0·5	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
3. *Vincristine Sulphate*				
(a) Cipla . . .	2	N.R.	Not available	40·3 gms
(b) H.A.L. . .	0·4	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
(c) Amrutanjan .	3·5	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
4. *Danazol*				
(a) Tamil Nadu Dadha	500	15·57 kg	28·12 kg	32·99 kg
(b) Cipla . . .	100	N.R.	Not available	110·99 kg
5. *Cisplatinum*				
Tamil Nadu Dadha .	24	0·129 kg	0·859 kg	0·72 kg
6. *Ftorafur*				
Cipla . . . ,	60 kg	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.

N.R. : For NOT Reported.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: From the reply it appears that some companies have been granted DGTD registration to produce anti-cancer drugs. In the statement the Minister has not mentioned the capacity of production. But I know that it is being produced in abundance in our country. I do not know whether the Government is aware of the export of the anti-cancer drug to the USA where as far as food and drug administration is concerned, it is the strictest in the world. But I know it is being exported and the price of indigenous drugs is also cheaper. So my question is whether these anti-cancer drugs are being imported in our country and the reasons there and whether the importer-companies in India are associates or agents. Will the Minister also tell the names of the importers?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: The total production of anti-cancer drugs in 1985 in the country is 228.6 kgs. The installed capacity which we have allowed till date in the country is 1296. Therefore, we will see that there is a lot of gap between what is required in the country and what is produced. Therefore, we are allowing imports of these drugs and the imports are on OGL. In most of the cases we impose no customs duty. The main reason why we are allowing imports is because of this gap. But we know that the gap will be bridged slowly. I have figures to show that each year import is being reduced and we will allow imports only till it is necessary.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: In reply to (d) and (e) of my question the Minister said—"To encourage production in the country all anti-cancer drugs have been delicensed." Is it a fact that the customs duty on the import of such solvents, etc. going into the production of these drugs is 141 per cent and there is a total exemption of customs duty on the imports of these drugs and formulations based on these drugs? If so, what are the considerations and reasons for such recommendation by the department? Is it not a disincentive to bulk producers, and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already answered this question. Please repeat it again.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: My point is that the solvent, etc. is required for the formulation of this anti-cancer drug, and that the customs duty on that is 141 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. The Minister has earlier answered that because there is a gap between the requirement and the indigenous production, there is import. That is what he has already stated. If you have any further question to ask on that, please put your supplementary. Now, Mr. Rafique Alam.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: I would like to know whether the IDPL is doing any research to produce anti-cancer drugs in the public sector.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: We do not have anything at the present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramachandra Rao.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, I heard that Vinca Rosa is very effective as an anti-cancer drug. Is the Minister aware of it and is he making an attempt to produce this drug here?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, it has not come to the notice of the Government as yet.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Sir, I welcome the decision of the Government to de-license the anti-cancer drugs because the main technology for anti-cancer drugs lies with foreign companies, major multinationals, which in India are known as FERA or non-FERA companies. Now, in view of the fact that the Government is de-licensing this particular category of drug, I would like to know

from the hon. Minister how many of such companies, FERA or non-FERA companies, which have international technology for these drugs, have applied for licences or have applied for registration in D.G.T.D., or installed any capacity or started producing these drugs?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, in the main answer to the question it has been stated that no licences have been given. About the DGTD registration I do not have the exact figure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Punjab Agro-Tata-Pepsicola project

*188. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:†
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starresd Question 142 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered all aspects of the application received from the Punjab Government regarding Punjab Agro-Tata-Pepsicola Project including the likely foreign exchange earning and the prospects of sharing of the concentrate formula;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reason for the delay; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Various aspects of the proposal are still under examination of the Government and a final decision will be taken as soon as possible.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: What are the details. Details have not been given in the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It says that various proposals are under consideration and final decision will be taken. If you have any particualr question to ask on that, you can. Mr. Sahu.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, I am glad that the proposals are under the consideration os the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the offer of the American Petrico, that is, minimum export guarantee? What is the total in-flow and total out-flow of foreign exchange, including....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir, in giving due consideration to this offer, is it considered by the Government that Pepsi Cola is a necessity for our economic development? This is (a). Now, (b): Is it a must in our anti-poverty programmes? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, we cannot answer this question. The proposal is still under consideration.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: What is the reaction of the Government to these two questions. You will certainly consider. But what is your answer to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it necessary for anti-poverty programme? That is the question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, this is not anti-poverty programme. This is a proposal from Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation. They applied for licence. This is under consideration.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dharam Chander Prashant.